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ABSTRACT

This book examines the ways in which people belonging to different language and cultural communities live together in the same political community, and how political and structural tensions arise to divide them along language lines. It analyzes the historical background and recent controversy over language in the United States, then compares the United States to two officially multilingual countries--Canada and Switzerland. This volume is suitable for courses in linguistics, political science, and sociology. The book is divided into nine chapters with the following titles: "Introduction: The Politics of Language, National Identity, and Cultural Pluralism in the United States"; "Historical Background of Language Protection and Restriction"; "Immigrant Exclusion and Language Restriction in the Twentieth Century"; "Language Rights and the Legal Status of English-Only Laws"; "Attitudes toward Language, National Identity, and Cultural Pluralism"; "Language and Identity Politics in Canada"; "Identity and Social Incorporation in Multilingual Switzerland"; "The Politics of Language in the Late Twentieth Century"; and "Conclusion: The Future of Language Politics in the United States." A Notes section, bibliography, and subject index are included. (Contains 421 references.) (KFT)

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